SHOE COVERS,
ANTI-SLIP SPRAY,
TOWELS AND TISSUES,
COS-TUME,
TIGHTS,
POINTE SHOES,
絢爛たるグランドセーヌ

ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE FINE WITH ME JUST BRINGING YOU THERE?
I'D FEEL BAD FOR LEAVING EVERYTHING TO YOUR TEACHERS...
OKAY, LET'S GO THEN.
IT'S FINE,
EVEN IF YOU CAME, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE ACCESS TO THE BACK-STAGE.

MAKEUP BAG, HAIR CARE PRODUCTS AND LUNCH.
YEP! EVERY-THING'S THERE!

IF I MAKE IT THROUGH THE PRELIMI-NARIES,
THEN YOU CAN COME AND WATCH ME FOR THE FINALS!

Scène.010 Gazo

TOKYO
18th National Ballet Competition
WOOAH, THERE'S REALLY A LOT OF PARTICIPANTS!
ACTUALLY, THIS IS ONLY ONE OF TEN GROUPS IN OUR CATEGORY.
TEN?!
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE SAKURA'S HERE.
YEAH.
WELL, WITH SO MANY PEOPLE...
AH! WHAT A COINCI-DENCE!

YOU TWO WERE ALSO PUT IN THE FOURTH GROUP!
SAKURA KURISU!
THE JUDGE-MENT IS DONE ACROSS ALL GROUPS,
SO IF YOU WERE TO FAIL IN ANOTHER GROUP WE WOULDN'T EVEN HAVE MET.
WOULD HAVE BEEN A SHAME AFTER THROWING THAT CHALLENGE TOGETHER.

I HAVE NO INTEN-TION OF FAILING HERE.
I WON'T LOSE TO YOU!
YOU OUGHT TO KNOW YOUR PLACE BETTER.
KANA-DE...
I KNOW,
I GOT RILED UP AGAIN!
sigh

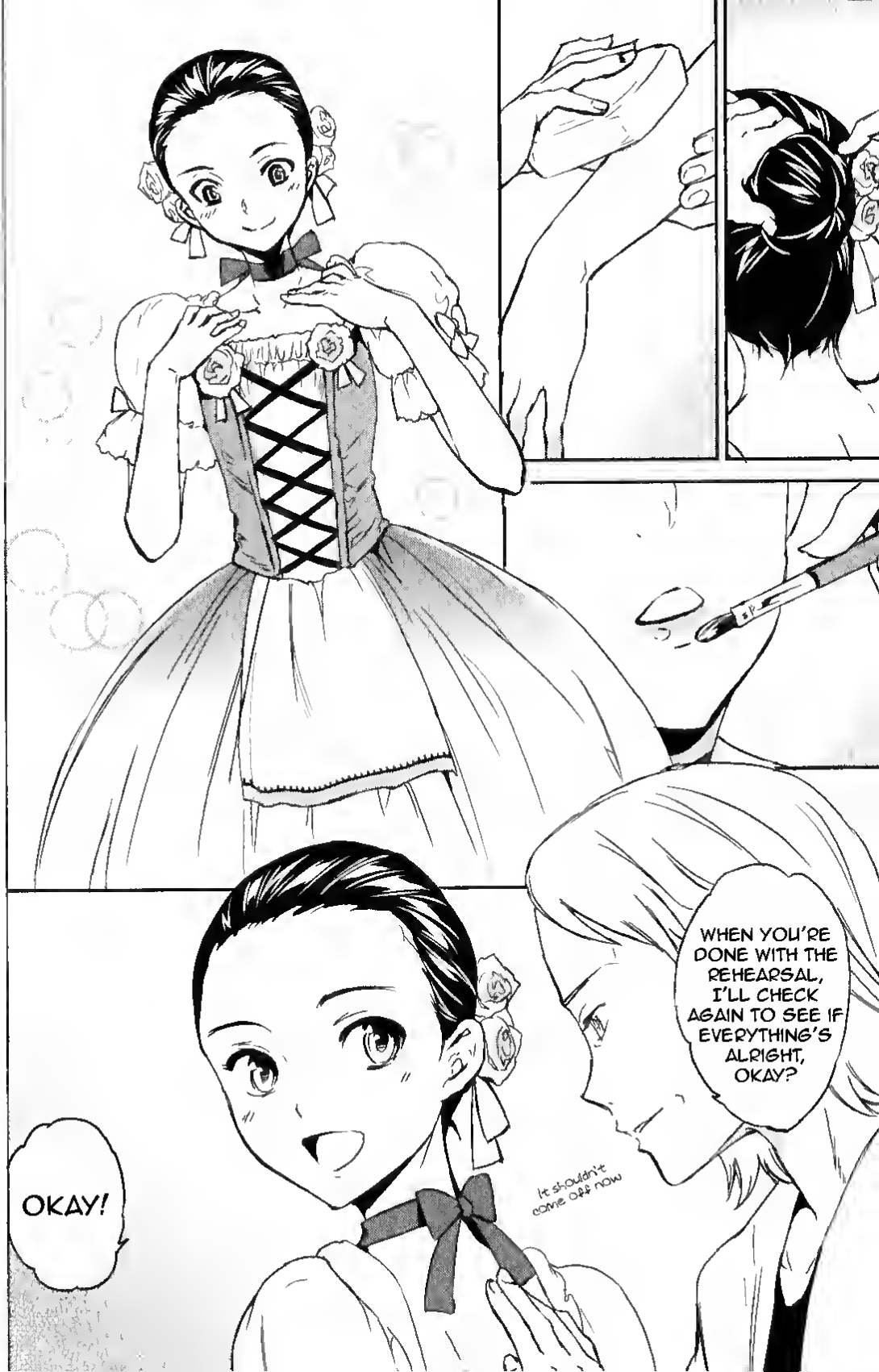
SAKURA,
SAKURA KURISU.
WE'RE IN THE SAME GROUP?!
IS THAT...?
NO MISTAKE, THAT'S HER.

WAIT...
WHY ARE THEY ALL LOOKING IN MY DIRECTION?
HMM.?
LOOKS LIKE SAKURA IS REALLY FAMOUS...

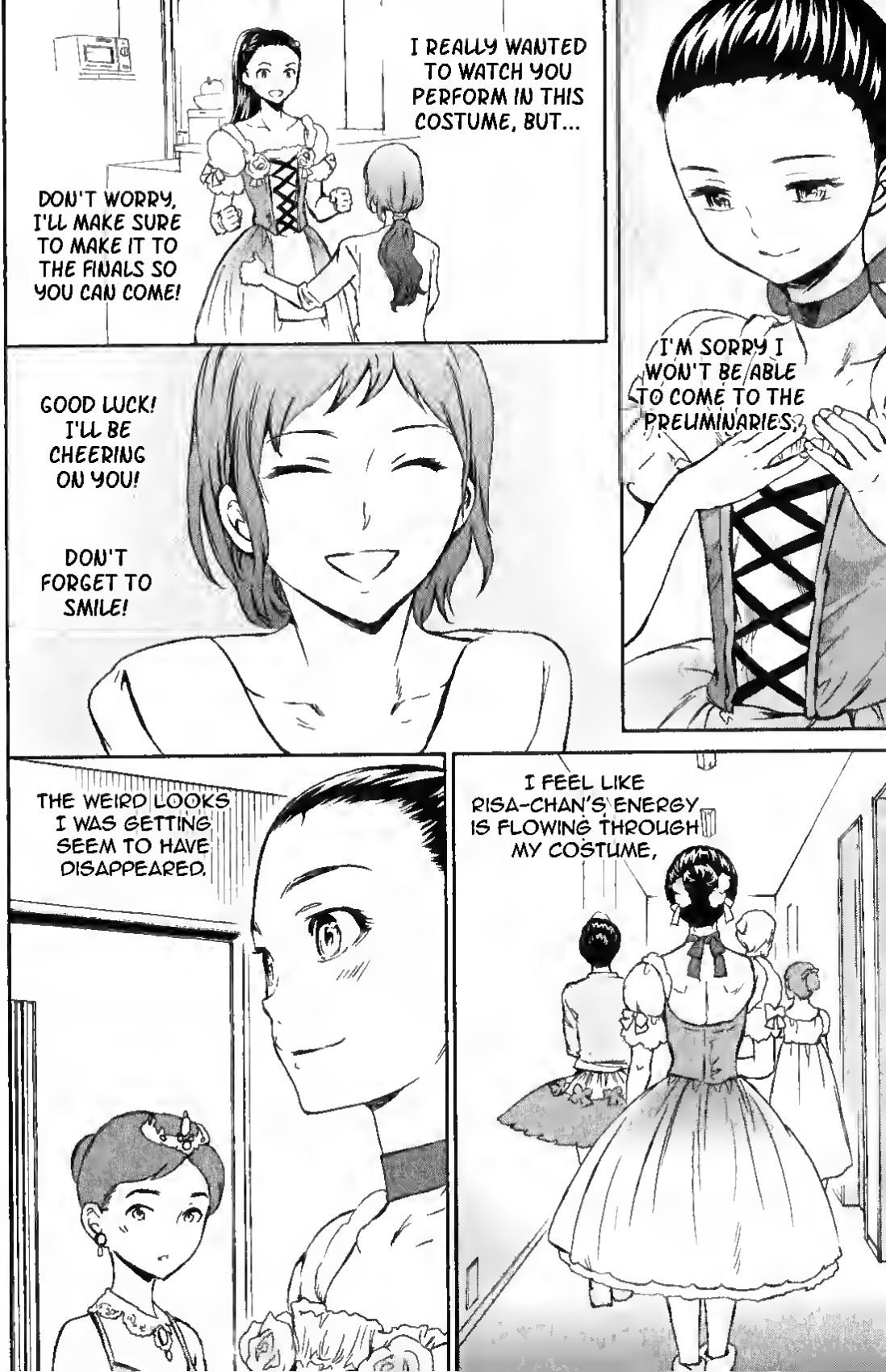
THE BARRE IS FREE IF YOU WANT.
WOAH, THANK YOU!
how kind!
HO-
HOW DID YOU KNOW...?
THAT WAS BOLD OF YOU, I LIKE IT.
RUMOURS CAME UP ON THE NET SOME-HOW,
THE GIRL TALKING WITH SAKURA KURISU ABOUT A CHALLENGE, THAT'S YOU RIGHT?
I SAW YOU EARLIER,
HUH?
THANKS,
AND ESPECIALLY YOU!
YOU'RE ALSO IN GROUP FOUR? LET'S DO OUR BEST!

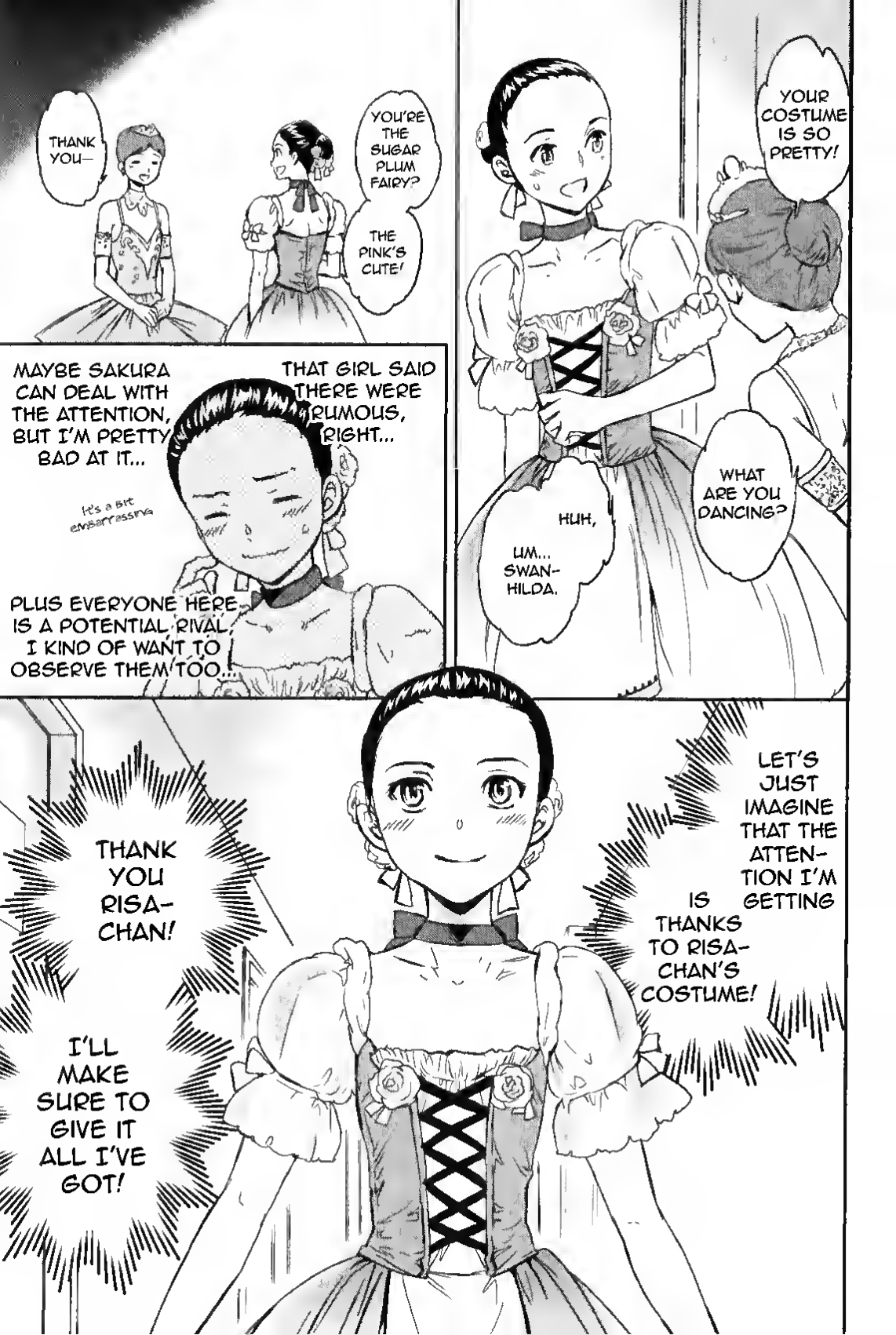
I'LL BE ROOTING FOR YOU AS WELL!
EVERYONE KNOWS HOW GOOD SAKURA IS, BUT SHE'S ALSO HARD TO DEAL WITH, TO SAY THE LEAST.
IT WOULD BE INTERESTING IF YOU WERE TO BEAT HER!
THOUGH I THINK I'D BE LUCKY TO MAKE IT PAST THE PRELIMINARIES...
I SAY THAT, BUT... WE'RE ALL RIVALS HERE, AREN'T WE? HAHA.
...SO IT WASN'T JUST MY IMPRESSION, PEOPLE REALLY WERE STARING AT YOU.
UGH... WHAT HAVE I DONE...
WELL THEN!
BEST OF LUCK!

...EVERYONE'S STARING AT ME WARMING UP.
I'M NOT REALLY FEELING IT...
AND SAKURA'S THE ONE WHO BROUGHT IT UP TOO...
TO THINK THAT SHE'D REMEMBER...

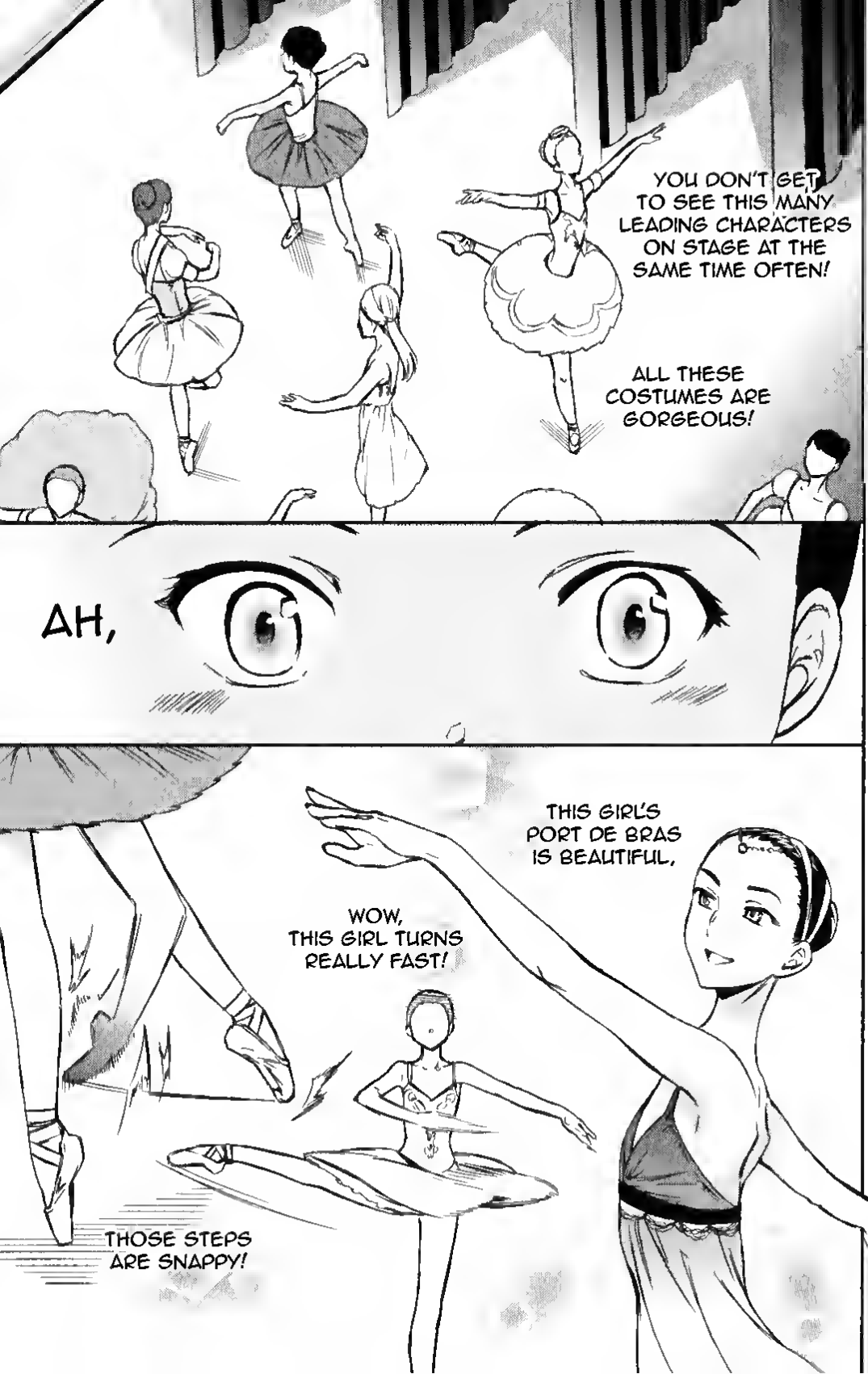

WHEN YOU'RE DONE WITH THE REHEARSAL, I'LL CHECK AGAIN TO SEE IF EVERYTHING'S ALRIGHT, OKAY?
It shouldn't come off now
OKAY!

WHAT DO YOU THINK, MIWA-SENSEI?
IT'S GREAT!
HOWEVER YOU LOOK AT IT, YOU MAKE A CUTE SWAN-HILDA!
HEHE HE,
I'LL HAVE TO THANK RISA-CHAN AGAIN FOR THAT!
IT LOOKS GREAT AND EASY TO DANCE IN.
JUST A LITTLE BIT SHORTER THAN A ROMANTIC TUTU,
AND THE COLOURS AREN'T TOO BRIGHT.
THE GRADATION IS BEAUTIFUL,
AND THE LIGHTING WILL MAKE IT SHINE, TOO.
I'M SURE IT'LL HELP YOU GIVE A GOOD IMPRESSION.
TRULY,
I DIDN'T KNOW RISA WAS HIDING THIS TALENT.


I REALLY WANTED TO WATCH YOU PERFORM IN THIS COSTUME, BUT...
DON'T WORRY, I'LL MAKE SURE TO MAKE IT TO THE FINALS SO YOU CAN COME!
I'M SORRY I WON'T BE ABLE TO COME TO THE PRELIMINARIES.
GOOD LUCK! I'LL BE CHEERING ON YOU!
DON'T FORGET TO SMILE!
I FEEL LIKE RISA-CHAN'S ENERGY IS FLOWING THROUGH MY COSTUME,
THE WEIRD LOOKS I WAS GETTING SEEM TO HAVE DISAPPEARED.

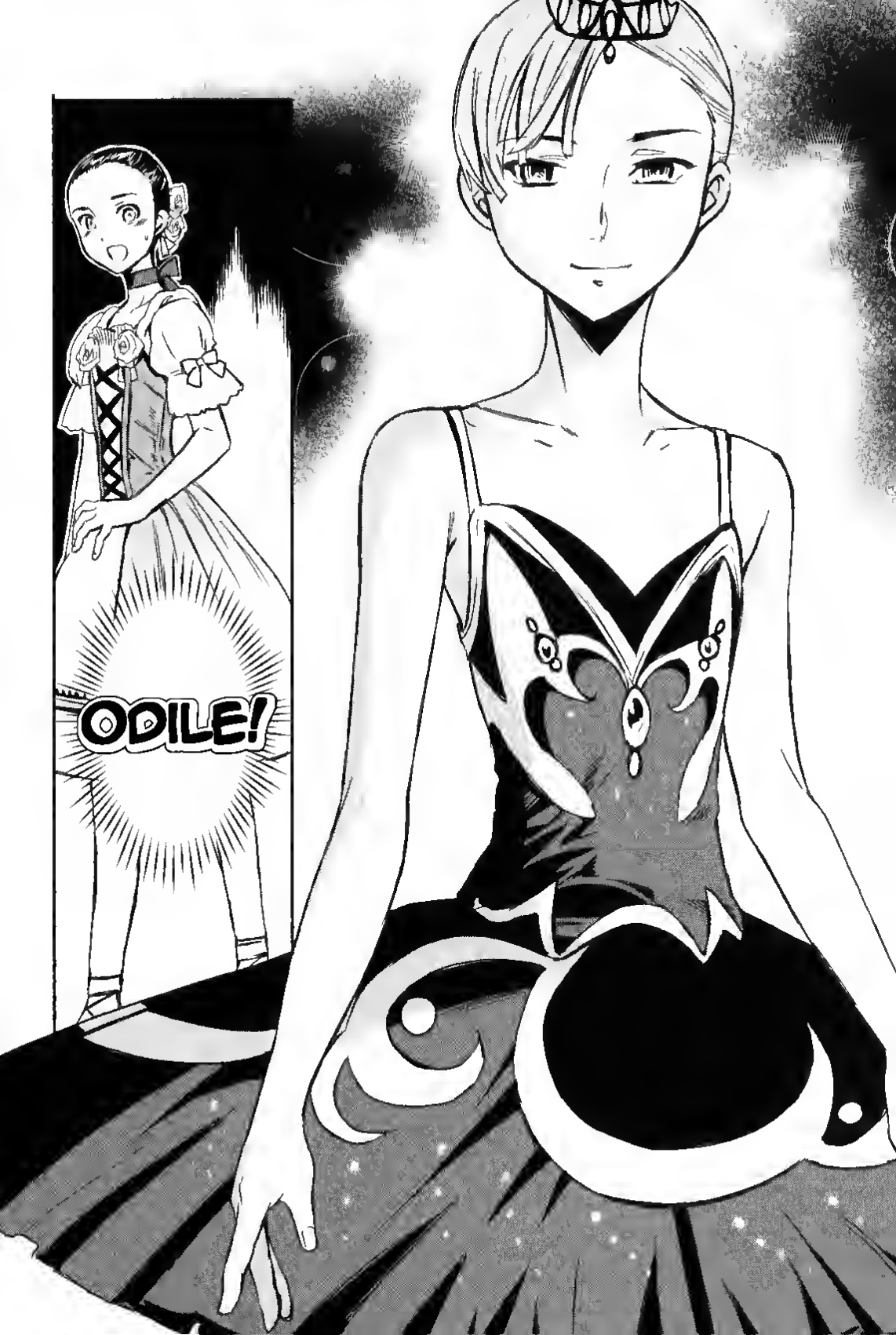

THANK YOU—
YOU'RE THE SUGAR PLUM FAIRY?
THE PINK'S CUTE!
YOUR COSTUME IS SO PRETTY!
HUH, UM... SWAN-HILDA.
WHAT ARE YOU DANCING?
MAYBE SAKURA CAN DEAL WITH THE ATTENTION, BUT I'M PRETTY BAD AT IT...
It's a bit embarrassing
THAT GIRL SAID THERE WERE RUMOUS, RIGHT...
PLUS EVERYONE HERE IS A POTENTIAL RIVAL, I KIND OF WANT TO OBSERVE THEM TOO...
LET'S JUST IMAGINE THAT THE ATTEN-TION I'M GETTING IS THANKS TO RISA-CHAN'S COSTUME!
THANK YOU RISA-CHAN!
I'LL MAKE SURE TO GIVE IT ALL I'VE GOT!

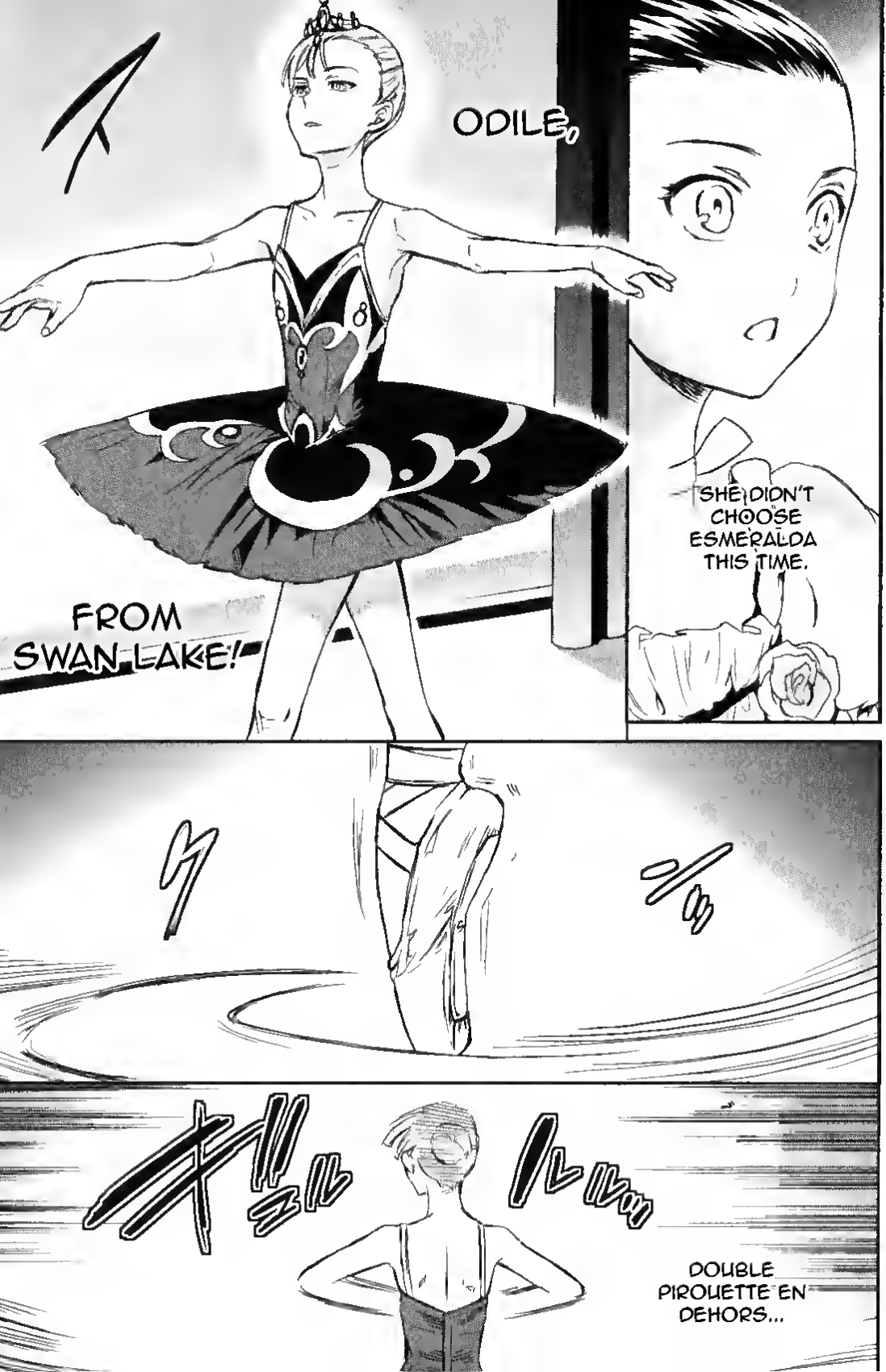
YOU HAVE TEN MINUTES TO REHEARSE,
MAKE SURE YOU LEAVE ENOUGH ROOM BETWEEN YOURSELVES TO AVOID BUMPING INTO EACH OTHER.
WOOOAH!


YOU DON'T GET TO SEE THIS MANY LEADING CHARACTERS ON STAGE AT THE SAME TIME OFTEN!
ALL THESE COSTUMES ARE GORGEOUS!
AH,
THIS GIRL'S PORT DE BRAS IS BEAUTIFUL,
WOW, THIS GIRL TURNS REALLY FAST!
THOSE STEPS ARE SNAPPY!

MORE THAN TWO THIRDS OF US WON'T MAKE IT TO THE FINALS!!
AND THAT'S ONLY ONE OF TEN GROUPS!
THIS IS AMAZ-ING!!
AND EVERYONE HERE IS IN ELE-MENTARY SCHOOL!
YOU HAVE TO LIFT YOUR LEFT LEG IN THIS POSITION, I THINK?
LET'S TRY TO DO THIS DOUBLE PIROUETTE EN DEDANS.
I THINK THAT'S THE TIMING.
MY SUPPORTING LEG IS ALSO ROTATING!

KANA-DE,
IT'S FINE TO TRY THINGS OUT...
BUT I DON'T THINK THIS IS THE RIGHT PLACE TO DO IT.
WOW!
A DOU-BLE!!
HEHE HE...

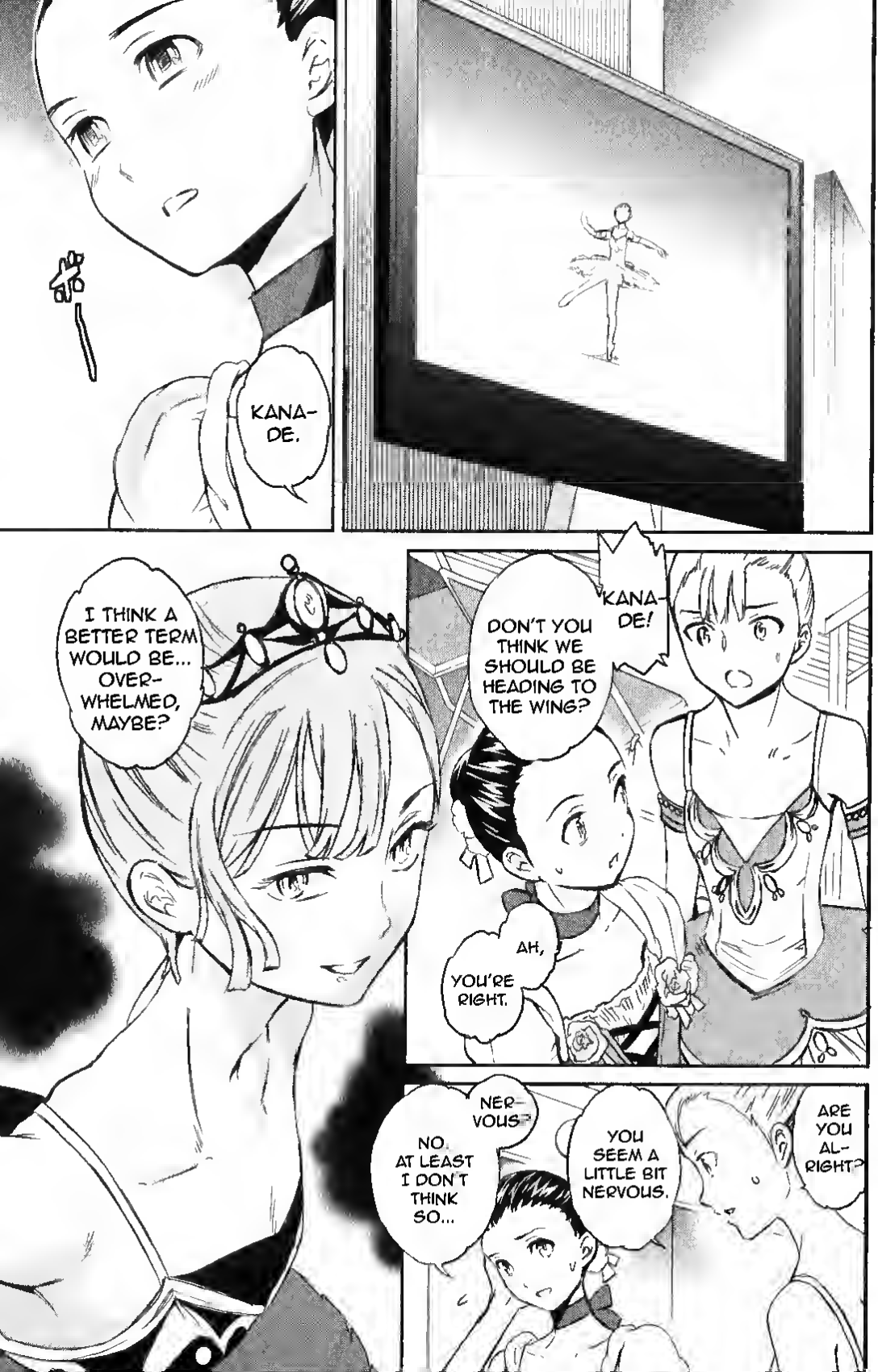

ODILE!


ODILE,
FROM SWAN LAKE!
SHE DIDN'T CHOOSE ESMERALDA THIS TIME.
DOUBLE PIROUETTE EN DEHORS...

STRAIGHT INTO A FOUETTÉ ATTITUDE!!

EVERYONE'S WATCHING.

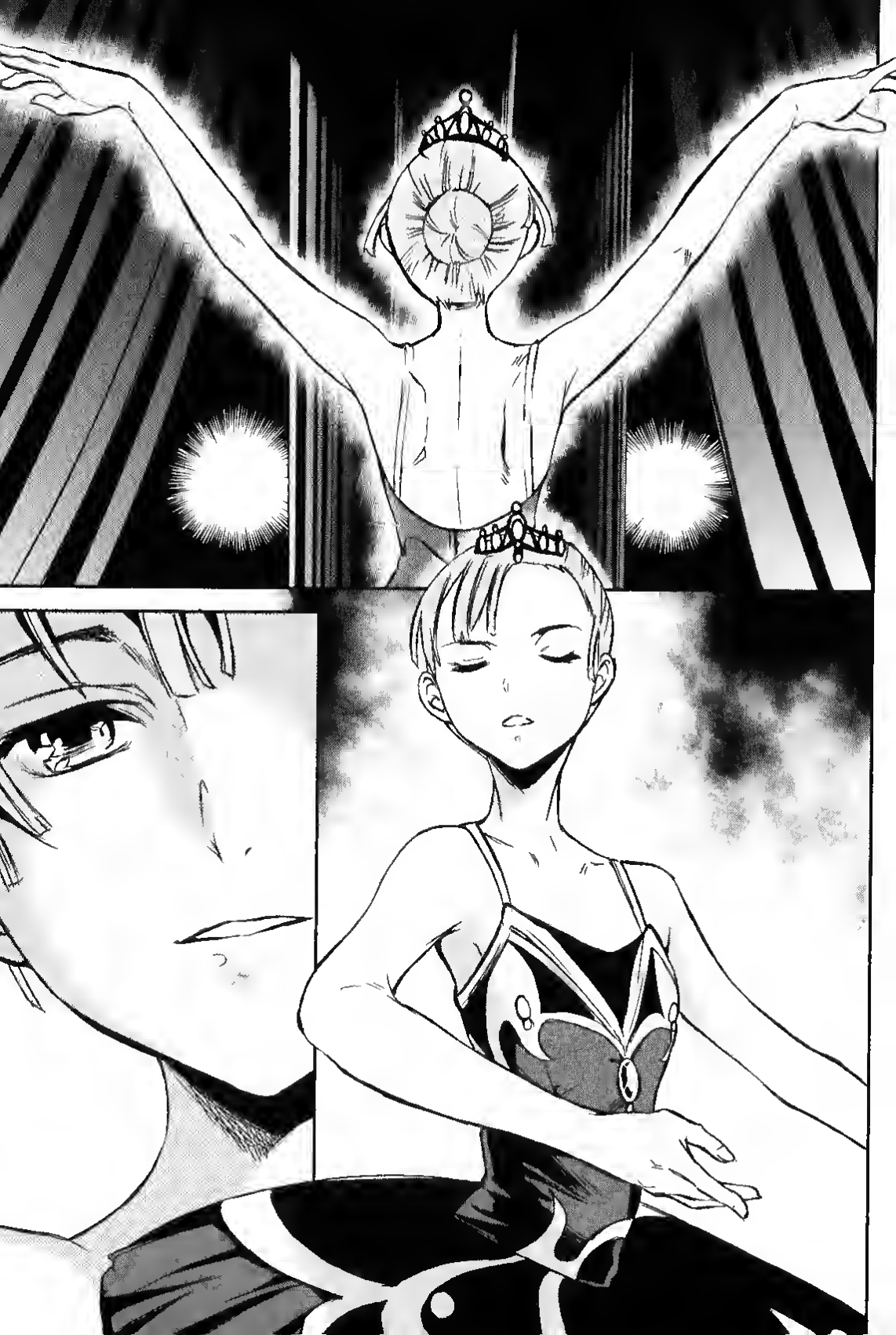
PLEASE RETURN TO THE DRESSING ROOM—
AL-RIGHT, TIME'S UP.
パン パン パン!
...


KANA-DE.
KANA-DE!
DON'T YOU THINK WE SHOULD BE HEADING TO THE WING?
AH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
I THINK A BETTER TERM WOULD BE... OVER-WHELMED, MAYBE?
ARE YOU AL-RIGHT?
YOU SEEM A LITTLE BIT NERVOUS.
NER-VOUS?
NO. AT LEAST I DON'T THINK SO...

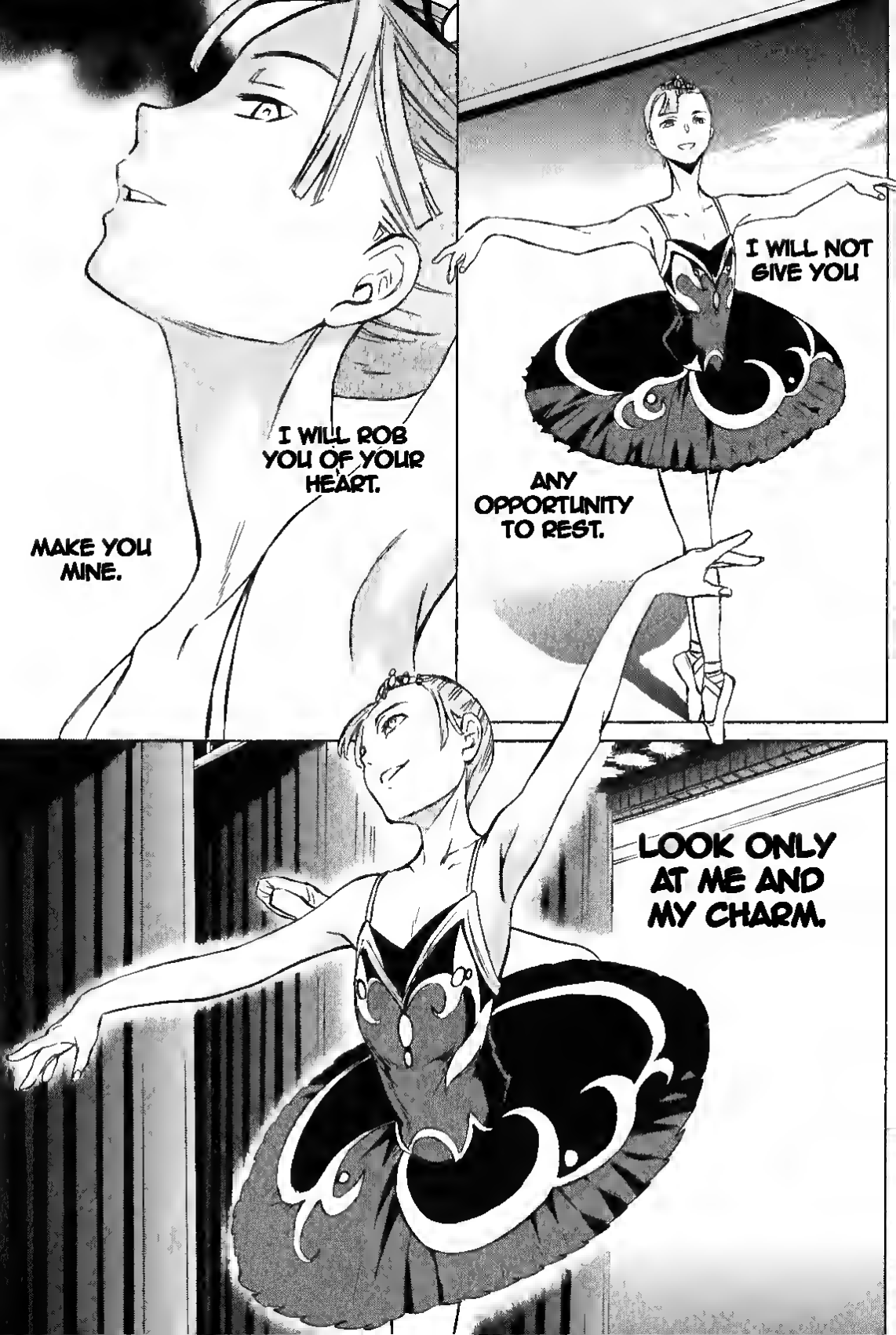
...
I GUESS...
BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANT TO ADMIT LOSING IN SPIRIT?
IT'S STRANGE, ISN'T IT?
I THINK IT'S BECAUSE I ONLY HAVE MYSELF TO CAUSE TROUBLE TO IF I FAIL?
AND YOU DON'T LOOK NERVOUS AT ALL THIS TIME, SHOUKO-CHAN.
I'D LIKE TO BE ABLE TO SAY THE SAME,
BUT I UNDERSTAND...
BESIDES, SHE WAS ALSO ABLE TO REFINE HER GAMZATTI A LOT IN THESE FEW MONTHS.

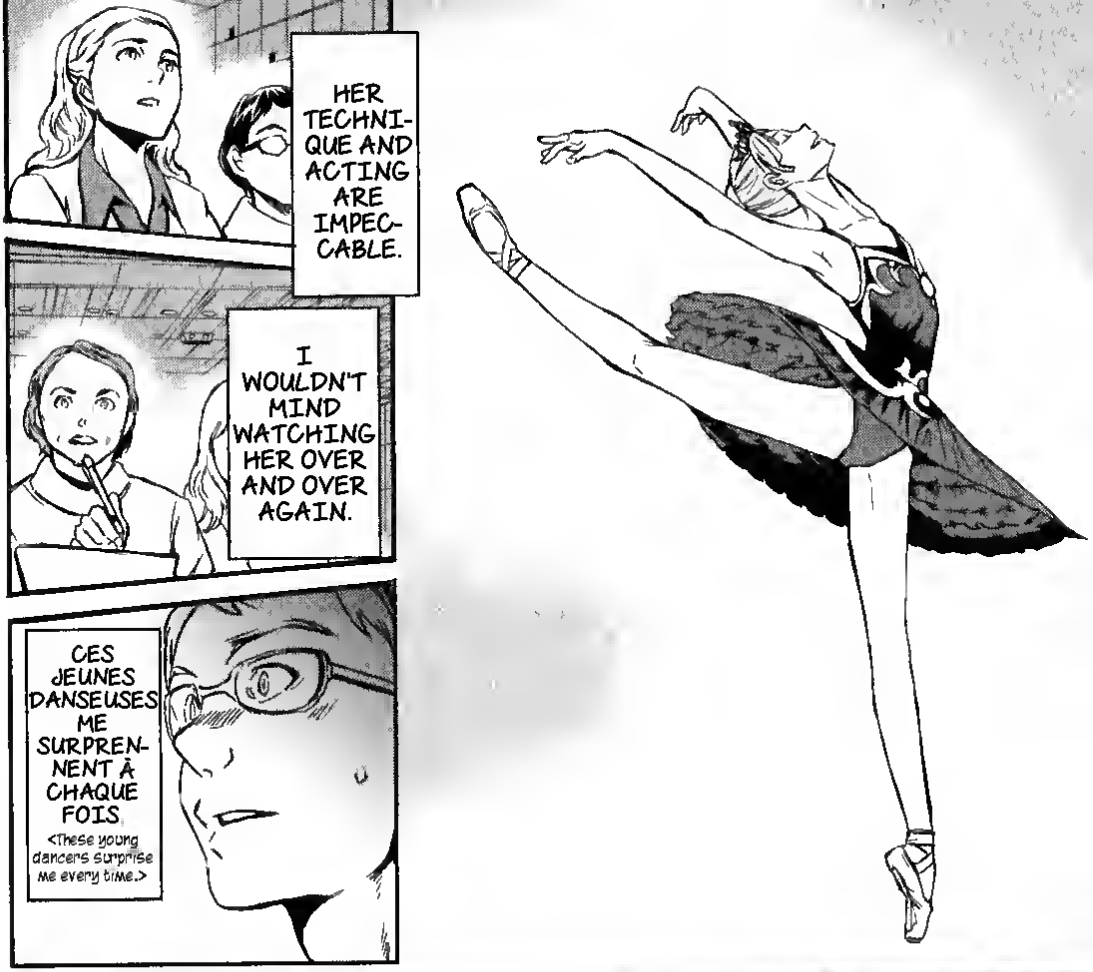
THERE IS STILL SO MUCH I COULD IMPROVE IN MY SWANHILDA.
THAT GIRL'S FLEXIBILITY,
THIS ONE'S LEG STRENGTH,
HER SENSE OF MUSIC,

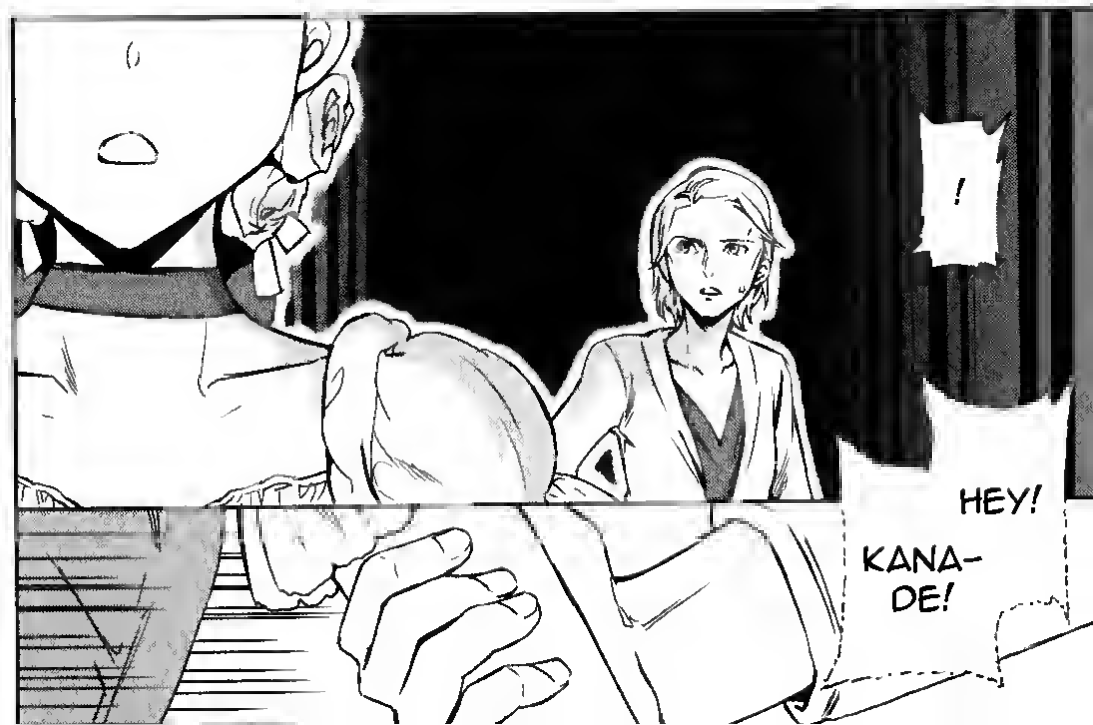
SAKURA'S... EVERYTHING.
I WANT IT.
ALL OF IT.



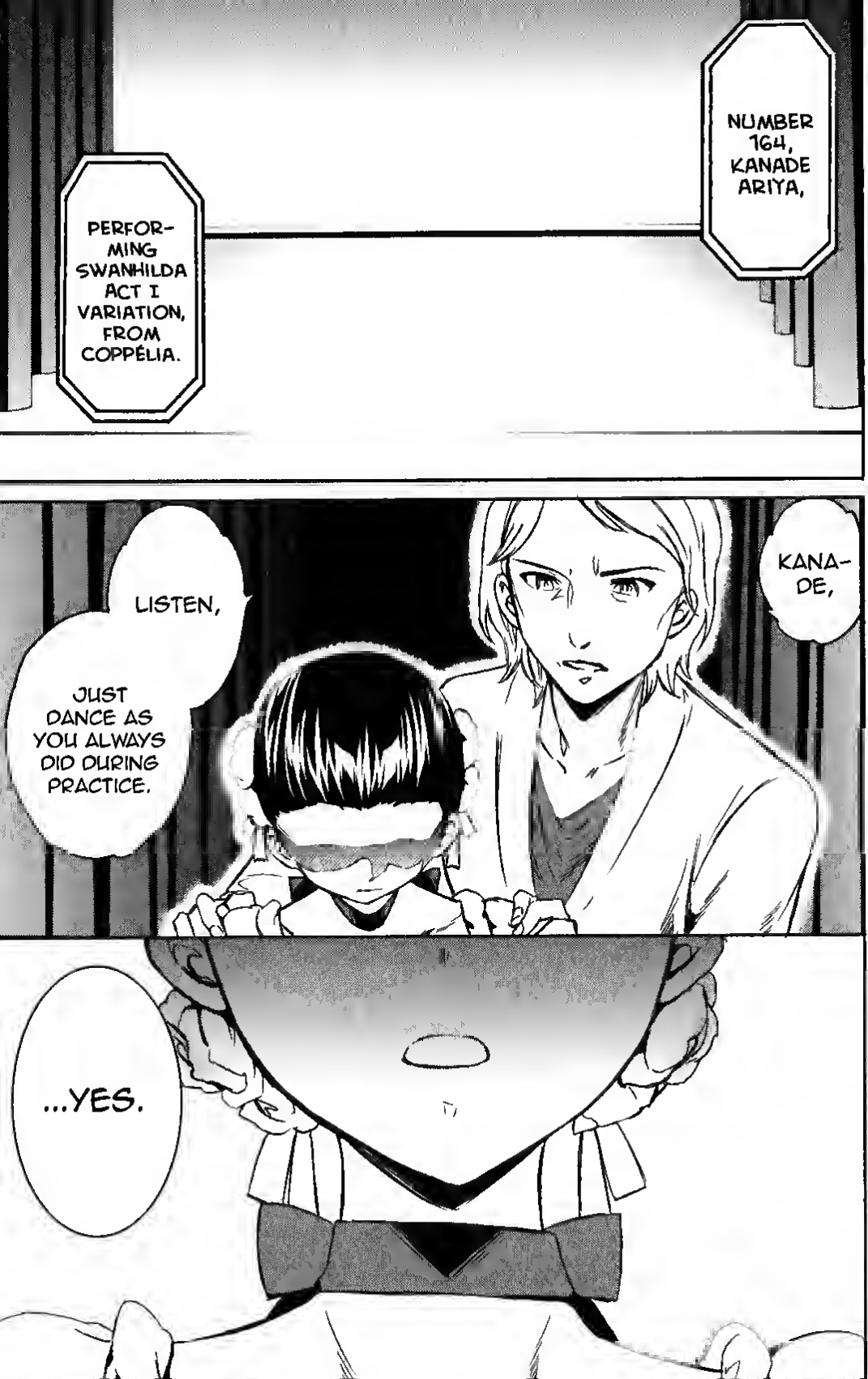
IMPERSONATING THE PRINCE'S LOVER IN ORDER TO SEDUCE HIM.
ODILE.
AN EVIL WITCH.

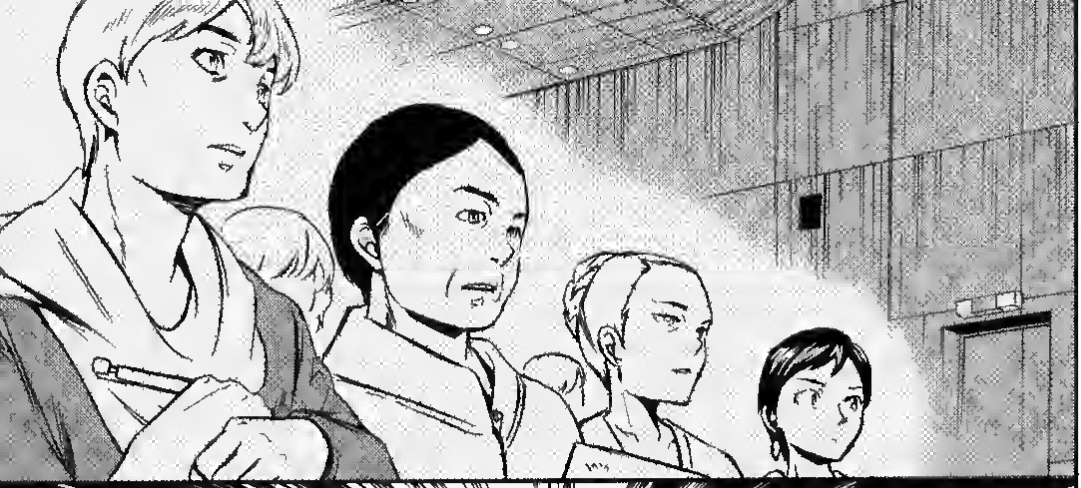

I WILL NOT GIVE YOU
ANY OPPORTUNITY TO REST.
I WILL ROB YOU OF YOUR HEART.
MAKE YOU MINE.
LOOK ONLY AT ME AND MY CHARM.


HER TECHNIQUE AND ACTING ARE IMPECCABLE.
I WOULDN'T MIND WATCHING HER OVER AND OVER AGAIN.
CES JEUNES DANSEUSES ME SURPRENNENT À CHAQUE FOIS.
<These young dancers surprise me every time.>


!
HEY! KANADE!

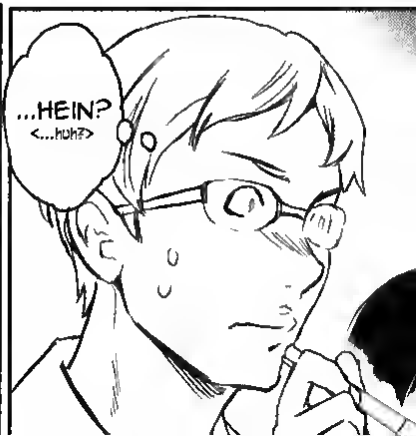
YES...
EH?
AH.
COME BACK HERE!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WE'RE SUP-POSED TO BE ON STANDBY.
BUT I WANT TO WATCH THIS TO THE END...
YOU'LL BE DISQUAL-IFIED IF YOU DON'T SHOW UP IN TIME!


NUMBER 164, KANADE ARIYA,
PERFORMING SWANHILDA ACT I VARIATION, FROM COPPÉLIA.
KANADE,
LISTEN,
JUST DANCE AS YOU ALWAYS DID DURING PRACTICE.
...YES.



PRÉPARATION!

KANADE...?


...HEIN?
<...huh?>

IN BALLET, THERE ARE FIVE DIFFERENT ARMS AND FEET POSITIONS, AS WELL AS EIGHT BODY POSITIONS DEPENDING IN WHICH DIRECTION THE BODY IS FACING.

IN COMBINATION WITH THE BASIC EN DEHORS POSITION, ALL THOSE ARMS, FEET AND BODY POSITIONS WERE DEVELOPED TO BE BOTH BEAUTIFUL AND EXAGGERATED IN A WAY THAT WOULD ALLOW EVERY SPECTATOR IN THE AUDIENCE TO SEE AND APPRECIATE THEM.

HERE, KANADE'S BODY IS IN "CROISÉ," FACING AT AN OBLIQUE POSITION TO THE AUDIENCE, WITH HER FEET CLOSED IN FIFTH POSITION, AND HER ARMS OPEN IN FOURTH POSITION.

THE POSE SHOUKO ASSUMES BELOW IS CALLED AN ARABESQUE, STANDING ON ONE LEG WHILE THE OTHER IS EXTENDED IN THE BACK. THE ARABESQUE IS ONE OF THE MOST RECOGNIZABLE POSE, AND OFTEN SAID TO BE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL POSE IN BALLET.

MORE SPECIFICALLY, SHE IS ASSUMING THE FOURTH ARABESQUE POSITION, WHERE THERE ARE FOUR DIFFERENT DEPENDING ON WHERE ARMS AND LEGS ARE POSITIONED.

FIRST ARABESQUE POSITION

SECOND ARABESQUE POSITION

THIRD ARABESQUE POSITION

A POSITION IS CHOSEN OVER ANOTHER DEPENDING ON THE DANCER'S POSITION IN RELATION TO THE AUDIENCE, TO MAXIMIZE BEAUTY AND VISIBILITY.

WHEN IT COMES TO DRAWING POSES, I OFTEN FIND MYSELF WORRYING ABOUT WHICH PERSPECTIVE TO DRAW A SCENE FROM BECAUSE THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WHICH PERSPECTIVE FEELS THE MOST NATURAL VERSUS WHICH PERSPECTIVE A POSE WOULD LOOK THE MOST BEAUTIFUL FROM.

THE POSTSCRIPT
ザ・ポストスクリプト

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[The Ballet Scholar]

Yui Yonezawa
[The Ballet Dancer]

村山先生、米沢 唯さん、
東京バレエ団さん、名取さんの
お名前を最後に。

AND YOU!

Champion RED Comics
チャンピオンRED コミックス

絢爛（けんらん）たるグランドセーヌ 2

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